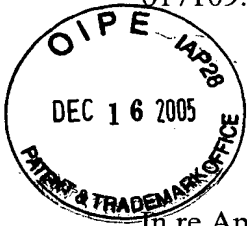


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017109.0360

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USSN: 10/688,675

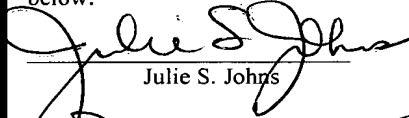
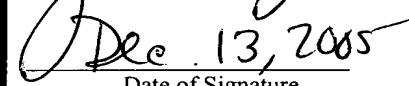


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Humble, et al.  
Serial No.: 10/688,675  
Filing Date: October 17, 2003  
Confirmation No.: 2628  
Group Art Unit: 3739  
Title: *System And Method For Removing A Protective Cover From A Medical Instrument*

**Mail Stop** \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

  
Julie S. Johns  
  
Date of Signature

Dear Sir:

**Third Request for Status**

Please advise the status of the above-identified patent application. The Filing Receipt was received March 29, 2004. Applicants are currently awaiting a first Office Action.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER  
017109.0360

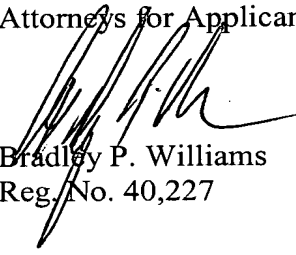
PATENT APPLICATION  
USSN: 10/688,675

REMARKS

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.702(a)(1), it has been over fourteen months since the filing date of this Application and a Notification under 35 U.S.C. § 132 has not been received. Thus, a period of adjustment of patent term due to examination delay is accruing in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.703(a)(1).

If there are any matters that can be cleared up through a telephone conversation, please contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicants

  
Bradley P. Williams  
Reg. No. 40,227

Date: 12/13/05

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer No.: **05073**